

**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 5130
AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS
Committee on Environment
March 1, 2010**

TO: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee
FROM: Maria Sanzo, RN, MSN, CPN (Certified Pediatric Nurse)

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5130. My name is Maria Sanzo, RN, MSN, CPN and I am a nurse with 26 years of experience in pediatrics. I speak in strong support of H.B. 5130, *The Child Safe Products Act*.

H.B. 5130 builds upon Connecticut's leadership in protecting children from harmful chemicals by creating a list of chemicals of high concern that will be banned from children's toys and other products. With over 82,000 chemicals already in commerce, we must move away from banning one chemical at a time. H.B. 5130 will do just that and set the framework to continue to address this problem in a systematic manner.

I am increasingly concerned about the rising incidence of learning and behavioral health disorders in children. A recent study reported the following statistics:

- In the United States, learning and developmental disabilities affect approximately one in six children under the age of eighteen;
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is now estimated to occur in three to six percent of children—or 2 million;
- Almost one percent of eight year old children are diagnosed with autism-spectrum disorder. This is a ten-fold increase in the past fifteen years!

- About 30% of the dramatic rise in incidence of autism cannot be explained by changes in the age of diagnosis and the inclusion of milder cases.¹

As a nurse at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, adjunct faculty at the University Of Hartford School Of Nursing, teaching environment and health, and an environmental health consultant, I teach parents, students and nurses around the state about exposures to chemicals and how to reduce health risks. More and more compelling research links exposure to many of these chemicals, particularly at critical stages of development, with learning and behavioral disorders, cancers, reproductive disorders and birth defects. We cannot shop our way out of this problem; nor should we have to. H.B. 5130 is a positive step forward in assuring that babies and young children are protected from chemicals of high concern. I urge your support of this important piece of legislation.

¹ Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families (2010) "*The Health Case For Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act.*" www.saferchemicals.org